

WORLD MISSION HIGH SCHOOL.

LEVEL 3 ALL.

ENGLISH HOMEWORK.

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Smile please! Say cheese! Anyone who has ever had a picture taken by a professional photographer swears he will scream if he ever hears those loathsome words again. When you first entered the photographer's office, the girl at the desk seizes you firmly by the arm, ushers you into the studio and plunks you down or rather up on a high hard stool. The photographer examines you critically through narrowed eyes and tells you to look pleasant. This is just what you thought you were doing. You sit there for what seems like hours, displaying your best Pepsodent or Colgate smile and lighting up the studio with the glow of your dazzling white teeth while he proceeds to fiddle with the camera, twisting this, turning that, and all but scratching your nose or putting out an eye when he suddenly thrusts light into your face. Is it worth it, you wonder? You are almost overcome by an impulse to bolt and let posterity struggle through its disappointed centuries with no portrait of you. Finally, everything is in order and the endless instructions begin. Instructions calculated to add to your already painful self-consciousness. "Head up, chin down, head right, shoulders left! Remove the look of agony from your face. Smile please, pul-eeze! No, you look as if you are snarling at me. No, no, not that either; that makes you look like a half-wit. Say cheese. Now, again. That's it! Hold it!" The photographer, however, doesn't seem to realize that his military order to hold it is easier said than done. Several days seem to pass between his command and the actual taking of the picture. Once again, he goes through the mysterious ritual with distance meters and dazzling lights, not unlike a priest before the altar, while the smile freezes upon your face and you feel as if you were cast in bronze. Finally, the blinding flash, the dancing blue spots before the eyes, and there is the photographer smiling genially, grasping you by the hand to pull you from the stool, from which position you end up on your knees. If so, seize the opportunity before you rise to say a prayer of thankfulness that it is all over. You find yourself at the door being told that the picture will be best ever. You contort your face into various expressions to the wondering gaze of the passers-by to see if the skin is still moveable. Then, with an airy feeling of release, as if a dentist had said, "That's all, I'll send the bill to your father," you walk away hating the word 'cheese' and especially 'smile'!

(Adapted from "Learning to write" by E.H. Winter Reed Smith)

1 Give two expressions that show that the writer does not like the actions of the girl at the desk?

2 Why does the writer say that you have to say a prayer of thankfulness when the photographing session is over?

3 In your own words, say what the story teller thinks of the photographer

4 Briefly explain what the following expressions mean as they are used in the passage: (i) "through narrowed eyes"

(ii) "displaying your Pepsodent or Colgate smile"

(iii) "snarling at me"

(iv) "his military order"

(v) "the mysterious ritual"

5 Why does the writer hate the words "cheese" and "smile" so much?